



NEWPORT COUNTY

1979

1978



THE AMBER NOTE
THE OFFICIAL MATCH MAGAZINE OF NEWPORT COUNTY AFC

AT SOMERTON TONIGHT
WIGAN ATHLETIC
Football League Division Four
Friday, 10th November, 1978
Kick-off 7.15 p.m.

15p

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- **Tom Thomas, Janet Thomas**

★ AMBER TALK ★

BY LEN ASHURST



TONIGHT's game is more or less where we came in, because our victory at Wigan on September 2nd was a turning point in the fortunes of both ourselves and our opponents, and since then we have both made progress up the table.

Our eight-match unbeaten run ended at Northampton last Saturday while Wigan were continuing their fine spell a week ago at Stockport. I know from speaking to their officials how confident they are about their prospects at this time, they present a formidable challenge to us in view of our injury situation and it's clearly imperative that we get two points tonight. Our injury problems leave us a little bit thin on the ground at present, and for the moment we shall have to get by with what we have. That presents a good opportunity for those currently in the side to establish themselves for the future because possession, as they say, is nine tenths of the law.

Looking back to Northampton, I think we have played worse away from home this season and still picked up points. But football is all about taking chances and avoiding defensive errors — something we've been good at during our improved spell, until last week. The turning point of the game was Dave Bruton's disallowed equaliser immediately after they had taken a 2-1 lead, but over a season these kind of decisions tend to even themselves out.

I'd like to thank our supporters who turned up last Tuesday night for Keith Saunders' Testimonial Match against Birmingham City. It was a game which provided reasonable second-half entertainment, and these matches are always difficult since they lack a competitive edge. But generally speaking it was an evening which proved satisfactory and our thanks to Birmingham's manager Jim Smith and his players, coming here as they did at a particularly difficult time for their club, and we can only wish them every success in their future endeavours. It was a memorable experience to see a World famous player such as Alberto Tarantini playing on our ground, and he was certainly the centre of attraction after the game.

Last Sunday saw us holding a very successful afternoon of football in our search for young local talent when Liswery provided us with opposition at the Orb Works ground for a specially invited group of players brought together by one of our South Wales scouts John McGlyne. After the match over forty boys and parents came back to Somerton Park where they were entertained by my staff and directors, and the end result has been the capture of two or three very promising youngsters for the future. We also signed a local youngster Neil Knight on schoolboy forms from St. Julians Comprehensive School, and we hope he will be one of many local lads who will join us in the future.

If we could have hand-picked an attractive tie for the first round of the F.A. Cup, it would have been Hereford United or perhaps Swansea City. It turned out to be Hereford and the only disappointment is that we have to travel. It will be a hard, competitive game, and I've always enjoyed going there when I was with my previous club. We have played well enough over the season away from home to have no fears about facing them on their own ground, and we naturally hope for a big contingent of fans travelling with us.

WELSH LEAGUE SCENE with BRIAN CLARK



SOME mixed results in our last two Welsh League games, with a good victory at Cardiff Corries on October 28th followed by a disappointing 1-1 home draw with Llanelli eight nights ago.

As you know, I've taken over the running of the reserves from Dai Williams who had to step down because of pressure of work, and it's been a new experience for me to have to sit on the touchline and criticise, as you have to do sometimes, I thought at first it would be difficult for me especially with experienced players such as Roddy Jones and Dave Elliott out on the pitch, but they've accepted that whatever I say is for the team's benefit, and I'm enjoying my new role very much indeed.

The Cardiff Corries game was a difficult one for us because it's not easy to play on a bumpy pitch with no stands or terracing. The ground is only five minutes from my home and I know them all at the Corries, so it was quite a get-together after the match in their Clubhouse where they looked after us very well. We won the game with a great header from Roddy after adapting well to the conditions and it was Roddy's first game for several weeks.

Jerry Brown supplied the cross, and he's looked stronger and more confident on the left wing week by week — I'm sure he'll be in contention for a first-team spot before the end of the season. In fact, all in all our reserve squad are capable of challenging for a League place which is a good sign. Goalkeeper Jerry Lee made his debut for us against Llanelli when we had 75% of the game without looking dangerous in the penalty area, but we conceded a bad goal as Terry admitted afterwards. But to be fair to him, it was his first game since last season, and he hasn't done much training — though that's something he'll soon overcome.

Being on the other side of the touchline has meant changes for me — I'm taking a close interest in our youth side to see what prospects we have, and from the recent games I've seen, there are several lads who with a bit of back will get into the reserve squad. As for my playing situation, I was expecting to hear this week whether the specialists were prepared to let me go on playing following my cheekbone operation. I miss being out there on the pitch, and although I've stated that I will definitely retire at the end of the season, if I do have to pack in earlier, it won't be so bad as I've had a long run in the game.

Being a rugby fan I've like to congratulate our Supporters' Quiz Team on beating Pontypool R.F.C. in the Radio Wales Quiz Show, and you can hear it on Radio Wales a week tomorrow at 10.00 a.m.

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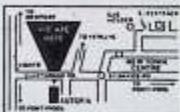


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WIGAN ATHLETIC



...are managed by Scottish-born IAN McNEILL who, in his playing career was with Aberdeen, Leicester City, Brighton and Southend United. This is his second spell at Wigan — he was player-manager ten years ago for two seasons. He then had a five-year spell as player-manager of Ross County in the Highland League before joining Southern League Salisbury. He returned to Wigan as manager on a part-time basis two years ago, and last summer gave up his job as a representative for an industrial chemical company to become a full-time manager.

It took several weeks for WIGAN to adapt to playing at Fourth Division level, and at the end of September the League newcomers were struggling near the foot of the table with just two victories and a draw from their opening nine games. But since then, results have improved dramatically — they are unbeaten in their last seven matches which have brought them twelve points — they've conceded just one goal in that spell — and team-boss IAN McNEILL was last week named October's Fourth Division Manager of the Month. The Club were part-time last season, and of the ten players retained from 77/78, nine have become full-timers.

Their defence has been in outstanding form in recent weeks with Bradford-born goalkeeper JOHN BROWN having kept a clean sheet in the last 450 minutes of League action. Ever-present this season, he is no stranger to League football having begun his career at Preston where he played a number of League games for them and later Stockport before he moved to Wigan three years ago. At right-back is close-season signing KEVIN SMART from Plymouth Argyle. He didn't get into the side until late August and has since missed only one of the last fifteen League and Cup matches. He was a regular in Argyle's line-up last season until late December and made a total of 32 League appearances for the West Country side. Regular left-back is Merseysider JOE HINNIGAN who was signed for a four-figure fee from South Liverpool F.C. four years ago. He has missed just two late-August games through injury and has scored four goals to date including last Friday's 76th-minute winner at Stockport. His first goal of the season — against us on September 2nd — was Wigan's opening Fourth Division goal.

Central defenders are Ulster-born NOEL WARD, currently team-skipper, who has been ever-present apart from the second-leg League Cup game against Tranmere, and newcomer DAVE FRETWELL, the former Bradford City player who has appeared in the last six matches. Ward first played for Portadown in Northern Ireland, and then went to Aberdeen from whom he joined Wigan two seasons ago. Yorkshireman Fretwell made nearly 250 League appearances for Bradford City for whom he was a regular last season, and during the summer he played for American side California Sunshine from whom he returned in late September. Out of the side for the last nine games has been Blackburn-born defender and Club Captain IAN GILLIBRAND who played in the opening ten League and Cup matches. Originally with Arsenal as a youth player, he has been at Wigan for the last ten years during which he has made over 600 appearances for the Club. Non-playing substitute last Friday was former England Youth defender NEIL DAVIDS returning to the side after a five-match absence with a foot injury. He has made several appearances this season and was signed during the summer from Swansea City for whom he played thirteen first-team games during the first-half of 77/78. He began his career at Leeds before going to Norwich for whom he had two First Division games, and he has also had loan spells at Northampton and Stockport.

In midfield is ever-present TOMMY GORE, though he appeared in the first seven League and Cup games at right-back. Liverpool born, he began his career at Anfield before going to Tranmere though he didn't have any first-team games for either club. He is in his

fifth season at Wigan and was last season's "Player of the Year". Another Liverpoolian — FRANK CORRIGAN — is ever-present in midfield. He has scored four goals to date, three more than he scored for the Club in all competitions last season when he was signed from Northwich Victoria for a £1,500 fee. Alston-born JEFF WRIGHT has also played every game in midfield and he was signed from Netherfield four years ago. He has quite a reputation as a goalscorer, and obtained fifteen in all first-team games last season, though this year he's netted on just one occasion — against Rochdale on September 13th.

A familiar Wigan name in attack is Chorley-born MICK MOORE who is in his second spell with the Club. His career started at Preston, and he was regular with Southport for several seasons before leaving them for Wigan in the summer of 1974. After scoring 22 goals for them last season, he was transferred to Port Vale in early March for £4,500, making 13 League appearances. He returned to Springfield Park for a £2,000 fee at the end of August, and after making his second club debut against us on September 2nd, he has been ever-present though he has yet to score. Also in attack is Merseysider PETER HOUGHTON who returned to the line-up four matches ago as substitute after a nine-match absence through a broken wrist sustained in the League Cup at Luton, and he's made full appearances in the last two games. Signed from South Liverpool F.C. last season when he scored 10 times in 17 outings, he's still looking for his first goal of 78/79. Former Scottish Under-23 Cap IAN PURDIE has four goals to date and has been ever-present. Signed in the close season from Motherwell, he was previously with Aberdeen (where he gained his cap as substitute v. England in 74/75) and Dundee.

Striker DEREK BROWNBILL wasn't in the line-up last Friday after being non-playing substitute in the previous game, but he was a regular in the side from mid-September when he joined the Club on extended trial after playing in the summer for U.S.A. club Cleveland Cobras. He started with his hometown club Liverpool for whom he made one First Division appearance before joining Port Vale for whom he has been a regular over the last few seasons. Other forwards who have appeared this season, though they haven't been in the side in recent weeks, are Manchester-born ALAN CROMPTON, a former Sunderland player signed in the summer from Blackburn, and Scotsman JOHN WILKIE who has been leading scorer for the past two years after coming from Highland League side Elgin City. He has had a previous spell in League football having been with Halifax from February 1973 to the end of 73/74. The only part-timer still on the staff — winger MICK WORSWICK — has made just one substitute appearance back in early September, and is on the transfer list. Two players who have appeared in the team but have since moved to Macclesfield, are midfielder Ian Seddon who was signed from Rochdale last summer, and forward Geoff Gay who came from Southport in the close season.

Wigan's debut in League circles has certainly shifted the emphasis in the town's sporting life away from the local Rugby League side at Central Park where they still talk of personalities such as Billy Boston from Cardiff's Tiger Bay and the late Jim Sullivan. But Ian McNeill's men are now changing all that — and with confidence sky-high at Springfield Park at present, they could soon be in a promotion-challenging position!



WIGAN ATHLETIC's '78/79 Line-up (Picture by courtesy—County Press Photos)

BACK (from left) — Kevin Smart, Peter Houghton, Neil Davids, Geoff Gay (now Macclesfield), John Brown, Frank Corrigan, Noel Ward, Joe Hinnigan, Jeff Wright.
 FRONT (from left) — Ian McNeill (Manager), Alan Crompton, Ian Sedden (now Macclesfield), Tommy Gora, Ian Gillbrand, John Wilkie, Ian Purdie, Ken Banks (Trainer).

Their '78/79 Record to date:—

August		F-A	Att.
12 Tranmere R.	FLC.1 (A) D	1-1	4,402
16 Tranmere R.	FLC.1 (H) W	2-1	8,512
19 Hereford Utd.	Div. 4 (A) D	0-0	5,674
23 Grimsby Town	Div. 4 (H) L	0-3	9,227
26 Reading	Div. 4 (A) L	0-2	4,758
29 Luton Town	FLC.2 (A) L	0-2	6,618
September			
2 Newport Co.	Div. 4 (H) L	2-3	5,319
9 Wimbledon	Div. 4 (A) L	1-2	9,217
13 Rochdale	Div. 4 (H) W	3-0	5,746
16 Bradford City	Div. 4 (H) L	1-3	7,090
23 York City	Div. 4 (A) W	1-0	3,307
26 Portsmouth	Div. 4 (A) L	0-1	14,902
29 Southampton Utd.	Div. 4 (H) W	1-0	4,459
October			
7 Huddersfield T.	Div. 4 (A) D	1-1	5,150
14 Doncaster R.	Div. 4 (H) W	1-0	5,788
18 Halifax Town	Div. 4 (H) L	0-0	5,216
21 Barnsley	Div. 4 (A) D	0-0	9,241
28 Northampton	Div. 4 (H) W	2-0	6,264
November			
3 Stockport Co.	Div. 4 (A) W	1-0	8,357

This Season's Scorers (League and Cup)
 Corrigan 4, Hinnigan 4, Purdie 4 (1 pen.),
 Brownhill 2, Gore 2, Ward 1, Wright 1.

Their History.

Wigan Athletic are not the first club to play League football in the Lancashire town. Wigan Borough F.C. were in Division 3 (North) from 1921 until October 1931 when they suddenly resigned, and tonight's opponents did not come into being until November 1932. But the memory of their predecessor's resignation, which had nothing to do with them, remained for a long time, and they made no fewer than 34 applications for League status before last season's successful request.

When they were first formed, they played in the Cheshire League of which they were triple Champions in 1933/34, '34/35 and '35/36, and they also won the competition in 1944/45. In post-war years, they did well in the Lancashire Combination and won several Championships. But their most successful period came when they joined the Northern Premier League on its formation ten years ago. In fact they failed to finish in the top three on only two occasions in the last decade. They were Champions in 1971 and 1975, and have frequently done well in the F.A. Cup. Last season was an exceptionally successful one for them — they finished as runners-up in the Northern Premier League Challenge Cup, and also reached the Third Round of the F.A. Cup when they were beaten by Birmingham City.

There is plenty of potential support within their locality, because although the population of the town is 89,000, there are over 300,000 people within a five-mile radius of the centre. Their Springfield Park ground has an attendance record of 27,000 for the visit of Hereford United in December 1953, and will accommodate 30,000 spectators.



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join M.56.....follow signs for M.53.....at end of M.53 take 2nd exit (A.560).....after 1.7 miles reach Stockport and turn left into
Greek Street.....at roundabout take 2nd exit into Castle Street.....take 2nd turning left into Wornall Street, at end of street turn
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SOMERTON TRAVEL's coach to Stockport leaves Newport Station next Friday at 2.30 p.m., Somerton Lane 2.40 p.m., Royal
Oak 2.45 p.m. Fare to be announced tonight.....bookings will be taken by Richard Boustow after tonight's game next to the
Club Shop.

INSIDE SOMERTON with Richard Shepherd



Tonight's visit of Wigan will mean a re-union with several of his old friends for our sandwich-board man George Newey. He played for Wigan Rugby League Club from 1933 to 1939 as a full-back after going North from Pontypool, and still has a number of friends in the town some of whom will be here tonight. Someone else looking forward to tonight's game is midfield player Neil Bailey who was born in the Lancashire town, and will be hoping for selection after being out of the first-team since his injury against Scunthorpe on October 7th, returning as substitute at Northampton.



Neil Bailey

In connection with our car-parking area outside the main Somerton Road entrance, there are still several spaces available for the remainder of the season, and after tonight's match season-tickets for the car-park will cost £8.00p. The advantage of purchasing a space will clearly be evident if the holder is unable to arrive at the ground until just before or just after the kick-off, but can then park his vehicle within yards of the turnstiles.

Some fascinating documents from our past came to light last week when someone handed to Chapman Richard Ford an envelope containing, among other things, a copy of the programme for a match when we made our Second Division debut on August 26th 1939 at Somerton against Southampton. There was also a programme of the League (South) game against Charlton here on September 13th 1945 and a ground-ticket for an F.A. Cup-tie against Arsenal at Somerton on January 26th 1957. The admission price nearly twenty-two years ago? — just two shillings!

Young Neil Reynolds of Fosse Road, Newport has only recently started following our fortunes with his father Terry bringing him to our home matches, and he received quite a surprise on his eighth birthday last Monday. Our players all signed a card for him — and one of his other presents was a mini-Newport County kit. But he'll have to wait about ten years before he can be considered for first-team selection.

We've been asked to remind you that as from November 23rd, B.B.C. Radio (4) Wales Sportstime programme on Saturday afternoons will be on a different wavelength, and will now be found in the present Radio 2 position. Details of all radio changes are being well publicised and it's just a question of getting used to the new positions on your set.

There was quite a social gathering of Newport County and Barnsley supporters at our last home League match. The supporters played each other in a game at Spry Lane in the morning and our lads unfortunately lost to a last-minute goal. Our line-up was: — Paul Henderson, Stuart Andrews, Phillip Burgess (sub. Steve Parker), Richard Bonoustow (sub. Chris Tomlin), Steven Humphreys, Jeremy Hill, Keith Murray, Paul Murray, Tony Murray, Keith Clarke, Les Thomas.

After the big match in the afternoon, a group of visiting fans stayed for a night out in our Social Club where we got our own back by defeating them at skittles, but they had the last laugh by beating us 6-0 at darts despite our being strengthened by Howard Goddard who made quite an impression with our visitors. The Barnsley fans met quite a few of our players during the evening and were delighted with the hospitality they received from all connected with Newport County.

Seven names are listed below tonight's team line-ups as match-ball donors. The seven are in fact supporters who work at Newport's Club, and the money for the ball has been collected from donations that they have made at 10p per goal scored. When the idea originated amongst them two seasons ago, the amount raised scarcely paid for two pairs of socks, and they are hoping now that we score enough goals for them to buy another ball before the end of the season.

Young defender Craig Smith felt quite at home when he arrived back at Somerton after the Barnsley game, having been down to Cardiff playing for our reserve side. Craig is from the Barnsley area, having been with us on trial since the end of September, and he knew most of the Barnsley players, so was able to catch up on the news from home. Craig is now with Biddenden on loan to gain competitive experience at a higher level than Welsh League, and got off to a winning start with his temporary club who gained their first Southern League victory of the season at Dartford on November 1st.

Newport County Subscription Draw winner of the £50 prize drawn at the Barnsley game was No. 236 Mr. F. Rendle of Llanishen, near Cardiff. To date, the Draw has given Newport County £2,040 with another £1,975 given away in prize money. It was a very nice gesture by the Subscription Draw to give our newly-married match-announcers Tim and Janet Thraves a free entry into tonight's Draw, and Tim and Janet have asked me through this column to thank all those supporters and Club officials for their good wishes on the occasion of Mr. and Mrs. Thraves' recent celebrations.

On the subject of match-announcements, it was the team change to end all team-changes at our Welsh League game here eight nights ago. Everyone attending the match expected our opponents to be Cardiff College of Education, but they pulled out at the last minute through unavoidable circumstances, and Llanelli took their place. So the announcement at the game went something like: "Tonight's visiting team show one change from the advertised line-up, Llanelli replace Cardiff College...!"

One former Newport County player who was fascinated by our team-photographs when he saw them after the recent Barnsley game was Reg Mogford who was able to look back at himself from 1937 to 1947. And his memory was so good that he could identify all of his team-mates after 30 years without referring to the captions.

Datsun Newport Ltd. were delighted with their sponsored display, and we were quite happy to see their cars and girls on display. As for the players who managed to find one of their vehicles with a tremendous shot in the pre-match kickabout, they've even forgiven him!



Winger JOHN MCGEADY, currently on trial with us, was quite happy to form part of this Datsun attacking line-up after his Club debut against Barnsley on October 28th.



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Action from Northampton last Saturday
(TOP) - Gary Plumley tips away a
 Northampton corner. (BELOW) - Steve
 Warriner hits a good shot, but it was
 saved. (INSET) - County fans hoping
 for a soup-score!
 (pics. by Colin Dowd)



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FOURTH REVIEW

F.A. CUP NEWS...

— Napier And Lawson Out!.....

TWO managerial changes in Division Four during the last ten days — Bradford City's John Napier resigned on October 31st while Halifax Town's Jimmy Lawson was relieved of his duties the same day, but remains at the The Shay as a player.

Former Bolton defender Napier, who was a player with the Bradford club before eventually becoming manager, and they spent a great deal of money for a Fourth Division side on players, but results have gone against them this season and they've lost six of their last nine matches, being currently in twentieth position. Assistant manager Bryan Edwards is temporarily in charge — he too is a former Bolton player and this is his second spell as manager at the club.

Halifax have had a disastrous season so far, having lost twelve of their sixteen League games, and they are stranded fifth behind Rochdale at the foot of the table. Whether Jimmy Lawson's future is still with the club remains to be seen, but they soon appointed a successor in George Kirby, the former Coventry and Swansea forward who has had a previous spell as manager of the club. Kirby's last act was to transfer striker Derek Bell to Yorkshire rivals Barnsley for a £30,000 fee on October 29th. Bell has scored only three goals this season for Halifax before his move, but he doubled that total in his first two games for his new club. He scored on his debut against us here thirteen days ago, and last Saturday netted twice in Barnsley's 3-1 home win over leaders Wimbledon before an 11,371 attendance. It was Wimbledon's second defeat in three matches and they had defender Jeff Bryant sent off — he was only the second Wimbledon player to be dismissed since their entry into the League. They have now conceded eight goals in three games — they'd only conceded five in their previous seven matches.

New leaders of the division are Reading who have lost just two games — both away from home in late September. They went to the top of the table on goal-difference following last Saturday's 3-0 win at Scunthorpe when young full-back Gary Pearsley scored his first goal. Reading have scored sixteen times in their last six League games in which they have been unbeaten, so it wasn't surprising that an attendance of 25,500 — their best gate since the February 1972 F.A. Cup tie with Arsenal — was present for Wednesday night's League Cup tie with Southampton, and Reading held their first Division opponents to a 0-0 draw with the replay next Tuesday. Southampton were without Ted McDougall who in fact hadn't been in their side in the last three games — he left them on a free transfer last Monday night to return to AFC Bournemouth, the club where he made his reputation as a goalscorer in the early 70's.

Bournemouth (7th) are together with Hampshire colleagues Portsmouth (5th) and Aldershot (6th) are all usefully placed just below the top four, and all three won last Saturday. Bournemouth's Mick Butler obtained the only goal of the game against Torquay — he was their first in six matches; Aldershot's Peter Greaves and Terry Sizer were the two men on target in their fine win over fourth-placed Grimsby, while an 11,394 attendance saw Portsmouth win their fifth successive home game by beating Darlington 3-0. Pompey defender Steve Piper had to go off early in the match and former Hereford striker Steve Davey did a fine job in replacing him.

Tomorrow's matches involving the top six: — Reading (1st) v. Notts County; Wimbledon (2nd) v. Stockport; York City v. Barnsley (3rd); Notts v. Grimsby; Grimsby (4th); Crewe v. Portsmouth (5th); Halifax v. Aldershot (6th).

On Saturday, 25th November, we travel to Hereford United in the First Round of the competition. The match is NOT all-ticket, but stand-seats are bookable in advance, and we are being allocated 400 stand-seats at £1.60p each. These will be available next week from our Secretary's office during normal office-hours by personal application, or by postal application (remittance MUST include a stamped-addressed envelope). Entrance to the terraces is by payment at the turnstiles on the day of the match (£1.30p — adults, 50p — juveniles and senior citizens). Hereford United have allocated the Blackfriars Street end of the ground to Newport County supporters.

In the event of a drawn match, the replay would take place at Somerton Park on Tuesday, 28th November at 7.15 p.m. Seats would be bookable on the Monday before the match.

This is the fifth occasion on which we have been paired with Hereford in the F.A. Cup. We first met them in the Second Round of '60/61 when a record 5,320 attendance saw us win 3-0 at Edgar Street. In '68/69, there were 12,012 people at Somerton Park to see our 2-0 Second Round victory, while in '69/70 we played them in the First Round, again at Somerton, and we were 4-2 winners before a 10,391 attendance.

We drew 1-1 at Edgar Street in the First Round of '63/64, and Ralph Hunt scored a hat-trick in our 4-0 replay win. The last occasion on which we met them in the F.A. Cup was in the '69/70 Second Round at Somerton and there were 8,197 people in see a match in which Alan Wood headed a controversial last-minute goal to give us a 2-1 victory.

Hereford United currently occupy thirteenth place in Division Four with sixteen points from sixteen games. Managed by former Wolverhampton and England International Mike Bailey, who joined them from American football at the start of the season and has played a number of games in midfield during '78/79, they have won only one of their last six matches. Last Saturday, they were 2-0 down to Halifax Town at home before eventually equalling with goals from David Jones and Bobby Gould. Signed from Telford during the close season, Jones is leading scorer with seven League and Cup goals to date. The much-travelled Gould came from Bristol Rovers as player/coach for a £10,000 fee in mid-September, and he has scored five goals for them so far.

Somerton Facilities

Our Social Club is available for any functions around the Christmas period, and details can be obtained from the Club Steward (Tel. Newport 74246). Our Club Shop is open on Mondays, and Christmas Orders for New Year and County Souvenirs are listed elsewhere in tonight's match-magazine, can be placed with, and collected from the Commercial Office during normal office hours. Various match-programmes can be purchased from the shop and programme of Newport County's '78/79 away games are normally available at the following home match. Tickets for our 'County Lotteries' (20p each) are available from sellers inside the main entrance. In the Social Club enclosure, and from the Commercial Office. New Draw — 25th November at 7.15 p.m. in the Victoria Inn, Nash Road. Drawery at approximately 5.00 p.m. Players and Staff will be present, and everyone is welcome.

NOSTALGIA SPOT (Alf Sherwood — 1956 to 1961).....

A NEWPORT County player captioning Wales against England at Wembley — it actually happened on November 14th, 1956 when full-back ALF SHERWOOD led the Welsh team onto the famous turf, and here he is pictured on the left, standing next to two other famous Welsh names from the past — winger Cliff Jones and goalkeeper Jack Kelsey.

Alf Sherwood was born in Aberaman, and was a Welsh Schoolboy Cap at cricket and soccer in the same year. That was 1938, some nine years later at the age of 17, he joined Cardiff City, gaining his first Welsh Cap in a Victory International against Ireland in April, 1944, and the next ten years he was practically an ever-present in the Welsh side as well as the Cardiff line-up. But towards the end of 1955/56, he lost his place in the City side following injury, and it became clear that his long association with the Club was at an end, so the 32-year-old Sherwood joined us in July, 1956 for an £2,000 fee.

In his first three seasons at Somerton, our defensive trio of Sherwood (left-

back), Ken Hollyman (right-back), and Ray Wdeox (centre-half) was one of the oldest in the League — but there weren't many Division 3 (South) attacks who could often outwit the defence, and wasn't a bad goalkeeper either, acting in that emergency capacity on several occasions for both Cardiff City and ourselves. He once saved a penalty against Cardiff at Liverpool in April 1954, and the Merseyiders lost the match which contributed to their relegation from Division One. His first international match was at Wembley in the game referred to above, and he played most of the match in goal following Jack Kelsey's 50th birthday injury. He lost 3-1 but Sherwood's performance was a memorable one.

In five seasons he made 206 League appearances, scoring 21 goals, and was one of them penalties or free-kicks. He left the Club in the summer of 1961 to manage Barry Town, since his period with the Club, no other Newport County player has won full international honours!





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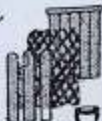
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Mike Dowler

— On His Way Back.....

THE LAST five days have been particularly important for our former Welsh Youth International goalkeeper MIKE DOWLER — he's been able to join in training with his club colleagues for the first time since last season, having been sidelined for the past three and a half months with a fractured wrist.

It happened because Mike volunteered to do a good turn at the St. Julian's School Fete in mid-July. He took part in a penalty competition, and in trying to save a shot, he sprained his wrist — or so he thought. According to Mike: — "I went straight to the hospital, but the X-rays didn't reveal anything serious. A few days later, we reported back for pre-season training but I wasn't able to do very much with the ball. I was told to give it some rest, but it didn't seem to be getting any better, and after a month I had further X-rays which showed it was broken."

Mike's wrist was immediately put into plaster, and he has had to spend a lonely period working by himself on our multi-gym doing weight-training on his legs and body — "It's kept me reasonably fit, but I've only been able to do light jogging, and it's all been very boring. The worst thing has been not having a game to look forward to at the end of the week, and it's been frustrating watching the first-team and reserves, and not knowing when I was going to get back into action."

Mike's plaster-cast was taken off a week ago, and he was given the go-ahead to resume full training last Monday morning — "It was something I was really looking forward to, and when we got down to the training-ground at Uskmouth, there was the usual mickey-taking from the rest of the lads — "Who's



this, then?"; "Another new player!" — I didn't have any hard shots to start with, just saving headers. But my timing and reflexes are slow after such a long lay-off, and it's going to take some hard training to get myself back into full fitness."

Mike isn't looking any further at the moment than the opportunity of playing in any sort of match. And he'll be hoping for better fortunes in his future career than he's had so far. He joined us as a non-contract player in October 1975 having been released by Hereford United the previous season. They had signed him as an apprentice professional when he left school in 1974 and he spent just over a year with the Club during which time he won Welsh Youth honours when he played in a second-leg UEFA Youth tournament match in Malta. He gained another youth cap after joining us, when he played in the '75/76 UEFA Youth tournament second-leg game against England at Maine Road, Manchester. That was the first time the injury jinx struck him, because he had to be taken off requiring stitches after being kicked in the face.

Mike made his League debut for us towards the end of the '75/76 season playing seven matches. He had to wait until February 1978 for his next appearance which came at Grimsby where Mike unfortunately fractured the same wrist which has been the cause of his recent inactivity. Despite problems that have hampered his career so far (Hereford let him go not because of his ability, but because they couldn't afford to keep three professional goalies), he is philosophical about the way things have gone for him — "It's no good thinking about what's happened in the past. I've just got to accept it and look forward to the future, and prove to myself and everybody that I'm good enough to be a League player."



Our multi-gym which has been Mike Dowler's constant companion for the past 3½ months.....

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DIVISION FOUR '78/79

(As it stands tonight)

Team	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Reading (1)	16	10	4	2	30	13	24
Wimbledon (2)	16	10	4	2	25	18	24
Barnsley (3)	16	8	6	2	24	12	22
Grimsby T. (4)	16	8	4	4	26	15	20
Portsmouth (5)	15	9	7	1	26	16	20
Aldershot (6)	16	8	7	1	21	14	19
AFC B'm'gh (7)	16	7	4	5	17	10	18
Torquay U. (8)	16	8	2	6	20	20	18
Stockport Co. (9)	16	5	5	5	24	17	17
Northampton (10)	16	6	5	5	22	17	17
Wigan Ath. (11)	16	7	3	6	18	13	17
Hartlepool (12)	16	6	5	5	21	23	17
Hereford U. (13)	16	5	6	5	19	14	16
Perth Vale (14)	16	6	5	5	25	23	16
York City (15)	16	6	5	5	17	15	16
Hudders'fd (16)	16	5	4	7	17	18	14
Scunthorpe (17)	16	5	4	7	16	14	14
Newport Co. (18)	16	4	7	7	20	25	13
Doncaster (19)	16	4	5	7	19	25	13
Darlington (20)	16	4	4	8	16	20	12
Bradford City (21)	16	5	2	8	20	30	12
Crewe Alex. (22)	16	3	6	7	16	30	12
Rochdale (23)	16	5	4	7	11	29	11
Halifax T. (24)	16	1	3	12	10	31	5

PLAYERS' ROSTER '78/79 . . .

(Including last Saturday's Match)	APPS.	GOALS
(PLUS sub app. in brackets)	Lge. Cup	Lge. Cup
K. ARMSTRONG†	3(1)	—
N. BAILEY	5(1)	1
D. BRUTON	8	—
T. BYRNE	11	2
B. CLARK	—(3)	1
G. DAVIES	11	2
D. ELLIOTT	16	2
R. GODDARD	12	6
R. GUSCOTT†	—	—(1)
R. JONES	2	—
S. LOWNDES	13	4
M. MEADY	2	—
K. OAKES	9	—
G. PLUMLEY	16	2
J. REILLY	7	—
C. SINCLAIR	11	—(1)
T. THOMPSON	14	—
N. VAUGHAN	9(1)	1
R. WALDEN	14	2
M. WALKER†	6	—
S. WARRINER	7(2)	—
M. WILLIAMS	3(1)	2
E. WOODS	12	2

Maximum - 16 League, 2 Cup, *1 pen
*No longer with Club.

WELSH LEAGUE '78/79

(Home matches in CAPITALS)

Date	Opponents	F.A.
19 Aug. (Sat)	SWANSEA City	0-0
23 Aug. (Wed)	MERTHYR	4-1
30 Aug. (Sat)	Briton Ferry (Cup)	4-1
2 Sep. (Sat)	PONTLOTTON	0-0
6 Sep. (Wed)	Pontllynn	1-1
9 Sep. (Sat)	PONTLLANFTH	1-2
16 Sep. (Sat)	Pembroke Boro'	1-1
20 Sep. (Wed)	Mertthyr	1-1
23 Sep. (Sat)	TREHARRIS	2-0
27 Sep. (Wed)	SWANSEA U. (Cup)	7-2
7 Oct. (Sat)	PEMBROKE B.	1-2
21 Oct. (Sat)	FERNDALE	1-0
28 Oct. (Sat)	Cardiff Corries	1-0
2 Nov. (Sat)	LLANELLI	1-1
11 Nov. (Sat)	Casrau Ath.	—
15 Nov. (Wed)	SWANSEA CITY	—
18 Nov. (Sat)	HARRY T.	—
25 Nov. (Sat)	Ammanford	—

(To be continued)

Recent Welsh League line-ups:

28 Oct. v. CARDIFF CORRIES (A)
Welsh League.....Won 1-0 (h.t. 0-0)
Cooke, Steel, Hayes, Coslett, Smith,
Williams N., Elliot (sub. Bailey), Williams
M., Jones (I), Clarke S., Brown.

2 Nov. v. LLANELLI (H)
Drawn 1-1 (h.t. 0-1)
Lee, Walsh, Reilly, Williams M., Coslett,
Steel, Elliott, Bailey, Jones, Clarke S.,
(sub. Williams N.), Brown.....scorer
Ayres (o.g.).

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- 2—Richard WALDEN
- 3—Tony BYRNE
- 4—Steve WARRINER
- 5—Grant DAVIES
- 6—Dave BRUTON (Capt.)
- 7—John McGEADY
- 8—Steve LOWNDES
- 9—Howard GODDARD
- 10—Colin SINCLAIR
- 11—Nigel VAUGHAN

WIGAN ATHLETIC

h.t. f.t.
()

Shirts — Blue/White Stripes
Shorts — Blue

- 1—John BROWN
- 2—Kevin SMART
- 3—Joe HINNIGAN
- 4—Tommy GORE
- 5—Noel WARD (Capt.)
- 6—Dave FRETWELL
- 7—Frank CORRIGAN
- 8—Jeff WRIGHT
- 9—Mick MOORE
- 10—Peter HOUGHTON
- 11—Ian PURDIE
- 12—Neil DAVIDS

ATTENDANCE.....

Tonight's Referee is ALEX HAMIL of Wolverhampton who has been officiating for nineteen years and has been on the League List since 1973 after graduating through Midlands leagues. Married with a son, he is a Senior Foreman on Government workshops.

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